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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/084,722

Applicant(s)

GAVIOT ET AL.

Examiner

FARZANA HOSSAIN

Art Unit

2424

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 08 December 2009.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-8 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/CD)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This office action is in response to communications filed 12/08/2009. Claims 1-8 have been previously presented.

Response to Arguments

2. Applicant's arguments filed 12/08/2009 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Regarding Claim 1, the applicant argues that a claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found in a single prior art reference (Page 6). The applicant states that claim 1 includes the steps "generating an information signal consisting essentially of control information and an input broadcast program comprising at least one particular event", "transmitting said information signal to each user", "the user making a choice of subscription using a device comprising means for effecting said choice, said device further comprising means for selecting" and "wherein said means for selecting operates on the input broadcast program comprising at least one particular event in dependence on the control information to selectively provide an output broadcast program, the particular event being included or not included in the output broadcast program according to the chosen subscription in accordance with said control information" (Pages 6-7). The applicant argues that the section provided by the examiner (Column 8, lines 18-39 of Slezak) does not disclose the limitations (Pages 6-

7). The applicant argues that while Slezak discloses means for effecting a choice between receiving movies with or without advertising, Slezak neither discloses nor suggests that the device used by the user to effect a choice of subscription also includes means for selecting, and that the means for selecting uses the control information to generate an output broadcast program from the input broadcast program included in the information signal, in which the output broadcast program selectively includes (or does not include) the particular event according to the chosen subscription (Pages 8-9). The applicant further argues that all users receive the information signal inclusive of the input broadcast program having the particular event, and the control information, while the means for selecting processes the input broadcast program under control of the control information to form an output broadcast program with or without the particular event.

In response to the arguments, the examiner respectfully disagrees. Slezak discloses generating an information signal which has control information to let users to choose a subscription (Column 8, lines 18-39, Column 9, lines 6-10, Column 3, lines 63-67, Column 4, lines 1-4). The choice of a subscription depends on the choice of whether a user wants to view a free, less expensive or more expensive programming. The subscription defines whether a program will include a particular event (or advertisement) or not. Slezak discloses if the chosen subscription selectively includes an event or not; if the user is paying for the program at full cost, then advertising is not included (Column 8, lines 18-39, Column 3, lines 63-67, Column 4, lines 1-4). Slezak discloses a must

see video is a particular event the user has to view in order to receive a reduced cost based on the chosen subscription (Column 9, lines 39-55).

3. Regarding Claim 3, the applicant argues that there is no description as to how Akamatsu can operate with Slezak to perform the limitations ("said device is configured to perform the acts of accelerated reading of a recorded program; and deactivating said accelerated reading during the particular event in respect of a specified subscription in accordance with said control information" (Pages 9-10).

In response to arguments, the examiner respectfully disagrees. Slezak discloses allowing accelerating of a program and not allowing or deactivating the accelerating based on the subscription (Column 9, lines 22-24, 53-60). Slezak does not explicitly disclose that the pay program can be recorded). Akamatsu allows a user to record a pay program (Column 7, lines 16-19). Slezak discloses a user system with a set top box or receiver (Figure 1, 504). Akamatsu discloses a system with a receiver and recorder (Figure 1, 100, 120). The purpose to allow a user to record pay programs instead of in the past when users illegally recorded the programs so that users are no longer inconvenienced to watch a pay program at time it is broadcasted (Column 14, lines 13-30, Column 2, lines 8-22).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-2 and 4-8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Slezak (US 6,006,257).

Regarding Claim 1, Slezak discloses a method using a telecommunication system (Figure 1) to enable a service provider (Figure 1, 510, 520) to differentiate among a plurality of subscriptions originated by a plurality of users to a service in respect of processing one or more input broadcast programs (Column 3, lines 63-67, Column 4, lines 1-4), each input broadcast program comprising at least one particular event (Column 8, lines 18-39, Column 3, lines 63-67, Column 4, lines 1-4), the method comprising:

Generating an information signal (Column 8, lines 18-39, Column 9, lines 6-10, 39-55) consisting essentially of control information including the graphical message and signals allowing users to choose between subscriptions and information allowing a user to forward shift a video or not forward shift a video based on the subscription (Column 8, lines 18-39, Column 3, lines 63-67, Column 4, lines 1-4, Column 9, lines 6-10, 39-55) and an input broadcast program comprising at least one particular event (Column 8, lines 18-39, Column 3, lines 63-67, Column 4, lines 1-4);

Transmitting the information signal to each user (Column 8, lines 18-39, Column 3, lines 63-67, Column 4, lines 1-4, Figure 7);

Offering the plurality of subscriptions having various subscriptions durations to the user as there is a pay level without commercials (the program only), discounted pay

level (some commercials with the program) and a free level (more commercials with the program) (Column 8, lines 18-39, Column 3, lines 63-67, Column 4, lines 1-4);

The user making a choice of subscription using a device comprising means for effecting the choice, the device further comprising means for selecting (Figure 1, 504, Column 8, lines 18-39, remote control unit, keyboard, mouse, Column 3, lines 63-67, Column 4, lines 1-4); and

Validating the user's choice of subscription and configuring the means for selecting to be responsive to the control information in dependence on the subscription choice (Column 8, lines 18-39, Column 3, lines 63-67, Column 4, lines 1-);

Wherein the means for selecting (Column 8, lines 18-39, remote control unit, keyboard, mouse) operates on the input broadcast program comprising at least one particular event in dependence on the control information to selectively provide an output broadcast program or the input program relies on the program including the advertisement (Column 8, lines 18-39, Column 3, lines 63-67, Column 4, lines 1-4), the particular event being included or not included in the output broadcast program according to the chosen subscription in accordance with the control information or based on the control information or information that determines which subscription the user will select and may or may not include the particular event or advertisement (Column 8, lines 18-39, Column 3, lines 63-67, Column 4, lines 1-4).

Regarding Claim 2, Slezak discloses all the limitations of Claim 1. Slezak discloses that the control information contains a table of events or a database of

advertisements (Column 6, lines 15-24, 38-47, Column 8, lines 43-53). It is necessarily included that a database is organized structure of information which can be interpreted to be a table of information. Slezak discloses an act of selecting a particular event on the basis of an event status value in the table or database (Figure 7, Column 9, lines 2-20, Column 8, lines 18-53).

Regarding claim 4, Slezak discloses all the limitations of Claim 1. Neel discloses the particular event includes at least one advertisement (Column 8, lines 18-39, Column 3, lines 63-67, Column 4, lines 1-4),).

Regarding claim 5, Slezak discloses all the limitations of Claim 1. Neel discloses the act of the user making the choice of the subscription comprises an act of selecting one subscription from among several subscriptions including different programs and a pay level and free level for the different programs offered on a graphics interface in communication with the device (Column 8, lines 18-39, Column 3, lines 63-67, Column 4, lines 1-4), 4).

Regarding claim 6, Slezak discloses all the limitations of Claim 1. Slezak discloses the validating step is implemented by the service provider by sending the device a signal characteristic of the chosen subscription (Column 8, lines 18-39, Column 3, lines 63-67, Column 4, lines 1-4), the signal being suitable for configuring the means for selecting as a function of the chosen subscription as the service provider sends either the paid version of the program, discount version or the free version with the particular event (Column 8, lines 18-39, Column 3, lines 63-67, Column 4, lines 1-4, Figure 7).

Regarding Claim 7, Slezak discloses a device for presenting an output broadcast program in accordance with a subscription chosen by a user (Figure 1, 504, Column 8, lines 18-39, Column 3, lines 63-67, Column 4, lines 1-4), the device comprising:

means for receiving an information signal or the receiver (Column 8, lines 18-39, Column 3, lines 63-67, Column 4, lines 1-4, Figure 7, Column 9, lines 6-10) receiving an information signal consisting essentially of control information including a message and signals allowing users to choose between subscriptions and movies and information allowing a user to forward shift a video or not forward shift a video based on the subscription (Column 8, lines 18-39, Column 3, lines 63-67, Column 4, lines 1-4, Column 9, lines 6-10, 39-55, Figure 7) and an input broadcast program having at least one particular event or an advertisement (Column 8, lines 18-39, Column 3, lines 63-67, Column 4, lines 1-4, Figure 7); and

Means for selecting the particular event in dependence on the control information, the selection means configurable by a provider of the information signal to be responsive to the control information on the basis of the subscription chosen by the user (Column 8, lines 18-39, remote control unit, keyboard, mouse, Column 3, lines 63-67, Column 4, lines 1-4, Figure 1, 504, Figure 7) for at least one of various durations as there is a pay level without commercials (the program only), discounted pay level (some commercials with the program) and a free level (more commercials with the program) (Column 8, lines 18-39, Column 3, lines 63-67, Column 4, lines 1-4, Figure 7),

Wherein the selecting means (Column 8, lines 18-39, remote control unit, keyboard, mouse) operates on the input program having at least one particular event to selectively provide the output broadcast program (Column 8, lines 18-39, remote control unit, keyboard, mouse, Column 3, lines 63-67, Column 4, lines 1-4, Figure 7), the particular event being included or not included in the output broadcast program according to the subscription chosen by the user in accordance with the control information based on the control information or information that determines which subscription the user will select and may or may not include the particular event or advertisement (Column 8, lines 18-39, Column 3, lines 63-67, Column 4, lines 1-4, Figure 1, 5042).

Regarding Claim 8, Slezak discloses a device for presenting an output broadcast program (Figure 7, Figure 1, 500, 502, 504), the device comprising:

means for receiving an information signal (Column 8, lines 18-39, Column 3, lines 63-67, Column 4, lines 1-4, Figure 7, Column 9, lines 6-10) consisting essentially of control information including the control screen and signals allowing users to choose between subscriptions and movies and information allowing a user to forward shift a video or not forward shift a video based on the subscription (Column 8, lines 18-39, Column 3, lines 63-67, Column 4, lines 1-4, Column 9, lines 6-10, 39-55, Figure 7) and an input broadcast program having at least one particular event or an advertisement (Column 8, lines 18-39, Column 3, lines 63-67, Column 4, lines 1-4, Figure 7, Column 9, lines 6-10);

Means for selecting the particular event in dependence on the control information (Column 8, lines 18-39, remote control unit, keyboard, mouse, Column 3, lines 63-67, Column 4, lines 1-4, Figure 7), the selection means being configurable by a provider of the information signal to be responsive to the control information on the basis of the subscription chosen by the user (Column 8, lines 18-39, remote control unit, keyboard, mouse, Column 3, lines 63-67, Column 4, lines 1-4, Figure 7) for at least one of various durations as there is a pay level without commercials (the program only), discounted pay level (some commercials with the program) and a free level (more commercials with the program) (Column 8, lines 18-39, Column 3, lines 63-67, Column 4, lines 1-4, Figure 7);

Wherein the selecting means operates on the input program having at least one particular event to selectively provide the output program (Column 8, lines 18-39, Column 3, lines 63-67, Column 4, lines 1-4, Figure 7), the particular event being included or not included in the output program according to the subscription chosen by the user in accordance with the control information based on the control information or information that determines which subscription the user will select and may or may not include the particular event or advertisement (Column 8, lines 18-39, Column 3, lines 63-67, Column 4, lines 1-4, Figure 7).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

6. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

7. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Slezak in view of Akamatsu et al (US 7,257,132 and hereafter referred to as "Akamatsu").

Regarding Claim 3, Slezak discloses all the limitations of Claim 1. Slezak discloses the device comprises means for accelerated reading of the program (Column 9, lines 22-24); and means for deactivation for deactivating the accelerated reading means (fast-forwarding) of the program during the particular event in respect of a specified subscription in accordance with control information or control data defining the subscription as a one which a viewer must view the advertisement to get a free or reduced cost programming and a forward shift is not allowed until the must view event is viewed. (Column 9, lines 53-60). Slezak does not explicitly disclose that a pay program can be recorded therefore, recording the program. In analogous art, Akamatsu disclose a pay program can be recorded therefore, recording the program (Column 7, lines 16-19). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Slezak to include a pay program can be recorded therefore, recording the program (Column 7, lines 16-19) as taught by Akamatsu in order to allow a user to record pay programs without illegally recording pay programs (Column 14, lines 13-30) as taught by Akamatsu.

Conclusion

8. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to FARZANA HOSSAIN whose telephone number is (571)272-5943. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Wednesday 7:30 am to 2:30 pm and Thursday and Friday 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Christopher Kelley can be reached on 571-272-7331. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Christopher Kelley/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 2424

FEH
March 2, 2010